

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01299 041921Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
-----042153Z 026758 /70
P 041913Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2671

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01299

HW REPEAT TORONTO 472 FOR YOUR INFO:
17953
4 011728Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1508

UNCLAS TORONTO 0472

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT,CA
SUBJECT: TORONTO REACTIONS TO TRUDEAU VISIT

REF: OTTAWA 1025

1. TRUDEAU SPEECH TO CONGRESS HAS HAD MAJOR IMPACT ON PM'S
IMAGE AS FEDERAL LEADER, SHIFTING MANY UNDECIDED TO PRO-TRUDEAU
AND SOME OPPONENTS TO UNDECIDED STATUS. HOWEVER, CONTRARY
TO THE "TRUDEAUMANIA" OF YEARS PAST, WE BELIEVE CURRENT SUPPORT
BASED ON NEGATIVE CHOICE OF JADED ELECTORATE WHO FEEL THEY
KNOW TRUDEAU TOO WELL TO BE IMPRESSED BY HIS RHETORIC. MANY
JUST FEEL THERE IS NO OTHER NATIONAL LEADER CAPABLE OF HANDLING
THE QUEBEC SITUATION. SPEECH AND THE MASSIVE MEDIA REACTION
COINCIDED WITH "JOE WHO" COVERAGE OF CLARK'S FIRST YEAR AS
OPPOSITION LEADER AND TIMING ALSO HELPED RESTORE SUPPORT TO
TRUDEAU.

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2. TRUDEAU STATUS AS LIBERAL PARTY LEADER WEDDED TO HIS
IMAGE AS FEDERAL LEADER BUT SHIFTS IN FORMER ARE NOT AS
VOLATILE AS IN LATTER. HERE AGAIN ONE IS ASKED "WHO ELSE?"
TURNER GETS PUBLICITY AS ALTERNATIVE BUT LOCAL THINKING
A) QUEBECKER IN STRONGER POSITION TO DEAL WITH PQ, B) TURNER
SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC MIS-
MANAGEMENT AND C) MORE PERTINENT IN POLITICAL TERMS, TURNER

WAITING FOR MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP TO BE THRUST UPON HIM
IN A GAME WHERE IT WILL TAKE A REAL FIGHT.

3. ASPECTS OF WASHINGTON VISIT OTHER THAN SPEECH CLEARLY
SECONDAY. WHILE TORONTONIANS PLEASED WITH TRUDEAU RELATION-
SHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND EASING OF ISSUES, QUEBEC
DOMINATES EVALUATION OF OTTAWA LEADERSHIP NEEDS.

4. WE FEEL TRUDEAU HAS IMPROVED HIS POSITION AMONG
TORONTONIANS WITH POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES -- BUSINESS, MEDIA.
ACADEMY, ETC. - BUT THAT THIS GROUP NUMERICAL MINORITY.
WE HAVE NO JARD DATA BUT BELIEVE AVERAGE PERSON STILL THINKS
LITTLE ABOUT QUEBEC, MAY HAVE RED-NECK ANGLO ATTITUDE ON
SUBJECT AND IS UNIMPRESSED WITH ANYTHING BUT ECONOMIC
REALITIES -- INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN PARTICULAR. THE
NEXT FEDERAL CAMPAIGN IN ONTARIO MAY WELL BE WAGED WITH HEAVY
DOSES OF SAVING CONFEDERATION BUT THE BULK OF VOTE WILL
COME ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES.
DIGGINS UNQUOTE ENDERS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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